(e) (i) Demand for this, low cost tobacco was increased on account of the preference given by the importers of Poland, Belgium and Russia, presumably for making low cost cigarettes.

(ii) Shortage of tobacco in Russia and non-availablity of sufficient foreign exchange reportedly led to import of these low cost tobaccos for making low cost cigarettes.

Export of Agricultural Products

1506. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any fresh steps to boost export of agriculture products like oil seedcakes fruits and vegetables products and milk products;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the names of the countries to which these are likely to be exported; and

(d) what was the quantity and value of their exports during the last two years and the names of the countries to which these were exported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) Steps taken to boost the exports of agricultural products include the enhanced Plan outlays in the VIIIth Plan for this sector, various concessions given to this sector in the Budget of 1993-94, and the amendments in the Export and Import Policy 1992—97. It is expected that this favourable environment would boost agricultural exports to a level of US $ 2255 million in 1993-94, mainly to West Asia, EEC, East Asia and USA.

(d) The details of exports in 1990-91 and 1991-92 sought by the Hon'ble Member are available in the March 1991 and March 1992 issues of 'Foreign Trade Statistics of India—Principal Commodities and Countries' published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, which are available in Parliament Library.

Restructuring of ITPO

1507. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to broad base the existing Board of Management|Directors of Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO);

(b) what is the present structure of ITPO;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large amount of money has been spent on infructuous items like frequent foreign travel by certain top officials of ITPO ;

(d) whether the approval of his Ministry is required for such foreign travel;

(e) whether there is any move to rationalise and choose carefully the overseas trips to be undertaken by the Chairman; and

(f) whether a Vice-Chairman is proposed to be appointed in place of Chairman to officiate in his absence during such trips ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) ITPO is a company registered under section 25 of the Companies Act. It has a Board of Directors headed by Chairman-cum-Managing Director, which